

Retrospective Rating Advisory Committee

Meeting of December 13, 1994

Minutes

In attendance:

Tom Kwieciak, Bldg Industry Assn.
Gene Vosberg, Restaurant Assn.
Risë Glaze, Assoc. General Contractors
John Gentry, Decor Carpets

James Nunn, Washington Employers
Donna Ganders, Wa. Health Care Assn.
Mike Sotelo, W.G. Clark
Excused:
John Sweitzer, Red Lion Hotels
Joe Hawkins, Bekins Northwest

Guests:

Bill Pickell
Joanne Collier
Scott Croucher
Gordon Mandt

Jay Seeley
Terry Peterson
Rob Sumner

Bill White, Senior Actuary, L&I
Gary Griesmeyer, Actuary, L&I

Myrna North, Retro Coordinator, L&I
Stuart Brotherston, Retro Coordinator, L&I

The minutes of the October 11, 1994 meeting were approved as corrected: John Gentry's name should be added to the list of attendees, and the spelling of Gene Vosberg's name was incorrect.

Bill White provided an update on the proposed retro WAC changes.

- He explained that the interest rate on refunds will be based on the State Fund yield, and that the agency has decided to not eliminate Plan B. He also reviewed the proposed changes to the size group tables and answered questions on the Performance Adjustment Factor (PAF).
- Group enrollment tables were distributed to those members present.
- Bill discussed the Stop Loss proposal, and how the cost of a claim (or group of claims resulting from a single incident) would be capped at \$500,000 per occurrence. The actuarial analysis has not been completed yet, so this WAC change may be pulled before the changes become effective, based on the results of that study and input from committee members. The study will be sent to members of the committee.

Kathy Kimbel discussed the process followed when WAC changes are proposed by the agency, and why L&I is proposing the current changes.

Kathy also discussed the “enhanced claims partnership” between the retro claims coordinators and claims managers. The agreement has been well received and is creating positive results.

Updates on the following issues were provided by Kathy Kimbel:

- Worksafe Washington -- Five employers are currently enrolled with Associated General Contractors. The first quarterly review meeting by the Worksafe Washington Advisory Committee was held on November 21, 1994. All five employers have entered into action plans to either develop or enhance their accident prevention, claim management and return to work programs. These employers have begun their participation in their 12 mandatory training workshops. The next quarterly review will be in February 1995. Associated General Contractors hope to enroll ten new employers for the next quarter.

- Imaging Project -- The equipment will be installed the retro work area shortly, as the wiring has already been put in place for the equipment. It is expected to be up and running by early January. Each claims coordinator will have their own terminal.
- DSHS Interagency Agreement -- L&I was mandated by the legislature to provide DSHS with an upfront premium discount, in exchange DSHS is to establish a program of injury reduction and prevention and show measurable results. A contract is close to being signed once final details are agreed upon. This is for a one-year period with an option to renew if the program works out as hoped. A progress report will be presented to the legislature by January 1, 1995.

Discussion on a variety of topics followed:

Mike Sotelo praised the Worksafe Washington program based on his experience with it in the construction industry.

Tom Kwieciak discussed the timing of the new table changes and how it would affect recruitment for July 1995 enrollees within his association.

Scott Croucher asked whether occupational claims could be included in the history reports. Kathy explained that this will occur once the retrospective rating automation project is completed on April 1, 1995.

Mike Sotelo solicited feedback from members present regarding difficulties in reaching claims managers and adjudicators at L&I, (e.g. busy signals, calls not returned, the duration and inaction on some claims which remain open). Kathy discussed the staffing levels and the imaging upgrades in the claims units and suggested that someone from the claims program area could attend the next committee meeting to address these concerns. She also explained that she or the retro staff is available to assist in such situations, and urged members to keep her informed of any problems.

Risë Glaze also stated that she has been unable to elicit any response to written inquiries she has sent to the claims areas regarding specific claims.

Terry Peterson asked if any statistics were available that compare claims caseloads "before and after" imaging technology was installed.

Future Agenda:

- Loss History Reports
- Long Term Disability
- Spring Seminar
- Legislative Update
- Claims Mgmt Representative

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m.-12 noon, Tuesday, February 14, 1995 in Room S130 of the Labor & Industries Building in Tumwater WA.